

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended). A ~~data ring hub~~, comprising:

a data ring including at least two disconnectable nodes for connecting to appliances and communication with one another by passing data traffic in said data ring in a data traffic direction, and said at least two disconnectable nodes each having a device for fault handling;

a monitoring apparatus for monitoring and driving said at least two disconnectable nodes, said monitoring apparatus being connected to each one of said at least two disconnectable nodes; and

an additional node different from said at least two disconnectable nodes, said additional node connected to said monitoring apparatus and allowing a fault state to be produced deliberately in said disconnectable nodes by feeding a faulty signal into said data ring in the direction of the data traffic in order to activate a loop initialization procedure.

Claim 2 (currently amended). The ~~data ring~~ hub according to claim 1, wherein serial data traffic is carried in said data ring using a protocol including synchronization signals.

Claim 3 (currently amended). The ~~data ring~~ hub according to claim 2, wherein a configuration of said additional node corresponds to a configuration of said disconnectable nodes; and

a circuit configuration producing a signal not complying with said protocol and connected as said appliance.

Claim 4 (currently amended). The ~~data ring~~ hub according to claim 1, wherein the data ring is a fiber channel data ring.

Claim 5 (currently amended). The ~~data ring~~ hub according to claim 3, wherein said additional node interferes with transmission of the synchronization signals to initiate a synchronization fault in said disconnectable nodes.

Claim 6 (currently amended). The ~~data ring~~ hub according to claim 5, wherein said disconnectable nodes reinitialize upon a data ring fault.

Claim 7 (currently amended). The ~~data ring~~ hub according to claim 5, wherein said disconnectable nodes reinitialize upon the synchronization fault.

Claim 8 (currently amended). The ~~data ring~~ hub according to claim 6, wherein said monitoring apparatus holds said disconnectable nodes in the data ring during the production of the data ring fault in said disconnectable nodes.

Claim 9 (currently amended). A method for operating a ~~data ring~~ hub, which comprises:

providing a data ring ~~having~~ including:

a data ring including at least two disconnectable nodes for connecting to appliances and communication with one another by passing data traffic in the data ring in a data traffic direction, and

a monitoring apparatus for monitoring and driving the at least two disconnectable nodes, the monitoring apparatus being connected to each one of said at least two disconnectable nodes, and

an additional node different from the at least two disconnectable nodes and arranged in the data ring, the additional node driveable by the monitoring apparatus and producing a fault state deliberately in the disconnectable nodes;

connecting the additional node by the monitoring apparatus after one of the at least two disconnectable nodes has been disconnected or connected;

producing said fault state in the disconnectable nodes by feeding a faulty signal into the data ring in the direction of the data traffic while holding the disconnectable nodes in the data ring in order to activate a loop initialization procedure; and

removing said one of the at least two disconnectable nodes from the data ring, if said one disconnectable node has been disconnected, or adding said one disconnectable node to the data ring, if said one disconnectable node has been connected.

Claim 10 (currently amended). A ~~data ring~~ hub comprising:

a data ring including at least two disconnectable nodes for connecting to appliances and communication with one another by passing data traffic in the data ring in a data traffic direction, said at least two disconnectable nodes each ~~and~~ having a device for fault handling;

a monitoring apparatus for monitoring and driving said at least two disconnectable nodes, said monitoring apparatus being connected to each one of said at least two disconnectable nodes; and

an additional node different from said at least two disconnectable nodes, said additional node connected to said monitoring apparatus and allowing a fault state to be produced deliberately in said disconnectable nodes, wherein said

monitoring apparatus holds said disconnectable nodes in the data ring while producing said fault state in said disconnectable nodes by feeding a faulty signal into the data ring in the direction of the data traffic in order to activate a loop initialization procedure.

Claim 11 (currently amended). The ~~data-ring~~ hub according to claim 10, wherein the data ring is a fiber channel data ring.

Claim 12 (currently amended). The ~~data-ring~~ hub according to claim 10, wherein serial data traffic is carried in the data ring using a protocol including synchronization signals.

Claim 13 (currently amended). The ~~data-ring~~ hub according to claim 12, wherein:

said additional node is configured to correspond to a configuration of said disconnectable nodes; and

at least one of said appliances is a circuit configuration producing a signal not complying with said protocol.

Claim 14 (currently amended). The ~~data-ring~~ hub according to claim 13, wherein said additional node interferes with transmission of the synchronization signals to initiate a synchronization fault in said disconnectable nodes.

Claim 15 (currently amended). The ~~data-ring~~ hub according to claim 14,
wherein said disconnectable nodes reinitialize upon a data ring fault.

Claim 16 (currently amended). The ~~data-ring~~ hub according to claim 14,
wherein said disconnectable nodes reinitialize upon the synchronization fault.